

THE T.E.A.C. NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 20, 1990

SUNBURST'S 8-BIT TITLES DONATED TO TEAC

Our software library just got a giant shot in the arm with the completion of an agreement between Sunburst Communications and TEAC which allows us to reproduce all the Sunburst 8-bit titles and add them to our library. Presently, we have ten titles available, and we can get permission to reproduce any others we can get copies of. Sunburst no longer has any titles in stock, but if we can find them, we can have them. Hopefully, some of you may have copies that we can duplicate. (Anybody have "Memory Castle," for example) Contact us if you do. Because we have to reproduce them in a copy-protected form, and the process takes a bit longer than it does with our regular disks, we are going to offer them at \$4 per disk. We also will have the original teacher's guides available for many of them, although you can use most of the programs without them. These guides are usually 20 plus pages long and are full of suggestions on how to best use the programs. We will provide a copy of them for an additional reproduction fee of \$8. You may reproduce the documents as many times as you like.

The following is the list of new award winning SUNBURST/TEAC titles available and a brief description of each one. We highly recommend them for the classroom teacher.

THE POND (Problem Solving) grades 2-adult

Helps your children learn about experimentation. In playing the game, they gather information, make assumptions, and test their assumptions. Discovering a pattern through the lily pads develops their ability to recognize patterns, plan ahead and reason visually. Winner of the "Best Microcomputer Software of the Year - 1983."

THE FACTORY (Problem Solving) 4-adult

Playing helps your children learn how to break down a problem into its parts and then solve each part step-by-step. Designing an assembly line to solve the problem develops their ability to plan ahead and to reason visually. Winner of the "Best Microcomputer Software of the Year - 1983", and the "Hall of Fame" Award.

M-SS-NG L-NKS (Language) grades 5-adult

Improves reading, writing, spelling, grammar, and comprehension. Exposes them to the classics of children's literature. Requires the student to reconstruct the passages by filling in the missing letters.

TEASERS BY TOBBS (Mathematics) 8-adult

Math puzzles develop thinking skills. Practice arithmetic skills while working through puzzles, help students learn how to break down a problem into its component parts, select the part to solve first, and then find the solution. Winner of the "Best Microcomputer Software of the Year - 1983," "Hall of Fame Award," and "Atari Star Award for Best Educational Courseware - Spring 1983."

WALLY'S WORD WORKS grades 4-6

Wally, a bouncing wallaby, helps students identify the parts of speech in a series of sentences. Students score by "hopping" Wally over words, picking them up and dropping them into pockets that represent the nine major parts of speech. Wally's Word Works comes with one main Teacher Disk and a Student Data Disk. Originally there was an intermediate and high school disk also. (two disks)

SPACE WASTE RACE (Early Learning) K-2

An animated storybook with music, sound effects, and learning activities. Helps familiarize children with numbers and letters.

THE INCREDIBLE LABORATORY 3-adult

This popular problem solving program places the student in the role of creating monsters in a laboratory. They must select chemicals to create each part of the monster. Students must record the results of their experiments, change variables, then determine how to proceed. Winner of the National Software Contest - 1983.

GETTING READY TO READ AND ADD K-2

Designed to give children practice in discriminating shapes, upper-and lower-case alphabet letters, and numbers. Correct response rewarded with colorful graphics, lively animation, and sound. Also called READY, SET...

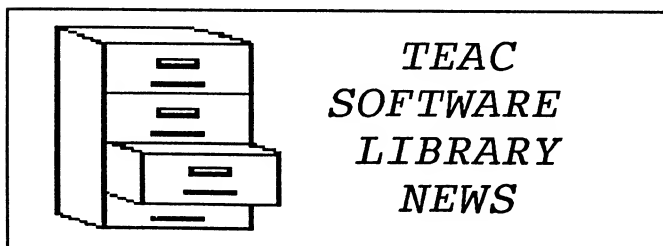
VOWEL ANIMATIONS (language) K-3

Two words are presented on the screen. The student must chose, from three other words, the one that has the same vowel sound as the first two.

SURVIVAL MATH (Mathematics) 7-12

A set of four simulations designed to motivate students to become actively involved in mathematical computations: Travel Agent Contest, Smart Shopper Marathon, Hot Dog Stand, and Foreman's Assistant. (two disks)

We will be adding these to our new winter catalog which should reach you in January. If you can't wait, just order them from us as usual: \$4 per disk, plus \$5 postage for the order.



I'm sorry to say thus far we have received no final word from Scholastic allowing us to add their Wizware educational software to our library, but hopefully we will still be able to work it out with them. On the upside, however, Sunburst Communications did give us permission to add their excellent software to our library in the meantime. We are also contacting several other excellent software houses, so hopefully we'll have more good news in the near future.

We've also decided to begin adding Atari ST Public Domain educational disks to our library.

This decision was made after a great deal of discussion. Our biggest concern was that we did not want to stop supporting the Atari 8-bit computer, but we also recognize that we must begin to support the Atari ST. We feel that one of the reasons that our 8-bit library has been so successful is that our disks were extremely easy to run. We wanted to carry that same "user-friendly" format to our new TEAC ST Library. Unfortunately, the ST has several different formats. Programs either work in color systems or monochrome systems, but not both. Older ST only work with single-sided disks, while newer STs use double-sided disks. For the same reason we placed all our 8-bit disks on single density DOS 2, we have decided to place all our ST library on single-sided 3.5 disks. All model STs will be able to read them. We also wanted our programs to autoloading, so this limited the number of programs we could place on an individual disk. Even so, our first offerings will require a color monitor. We will offer these disks for \$4 each. Here is our first offering:

<u>TEAC ST DISK #1 - PreSchool Kid Programs</u>	
Includes: KidGrid+, KidBlocks, KidKeys	K-2
<u>TEAC ST DISK #2 - ST Coloring Book</u>	
Excellent computer coloring book	K-6
<u>TEAC ST DISK #3 - Kid Potato</u>	
Dress the potato man, match or make	K-1
<u>TEAC ST DISK #4 - Discovery</u>	
Excellent USA map program	4-12
<u>TEAC ST DISK #5 - Wuzzlers</u>	
Word and picture puzzle game	2-4
<u>TEAC ST DISK #6 - ST Writer V3.4</u>	
Word Processor, includes spell checker	all
<u>TEAC ST DISK #7 - Kid Publisher</u>	
Kids Desktop publishing	1-5
<u>TEAC ST DISK #8 - Geography-2</u>	
Earth, Moon, and Space Shuttle, excellent graphics.	5-12

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

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POST OFFICE BOX 1024
LAYTONVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95454

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEE
\$25.00

Membership includes 6 issues of the TEAC Newsletter and a one year subscription to ATARI INTERFACE MAGAZINE



DOCTOR DOS ATARI 8-BIT TIPS

by Alan Birch

HOW TO GET UP-TO-DATE SOFTWARE FOR YOUR ATARI

At a time when it appears that the 8-bit Atari computer is going the way of the dinosaur and NEW software for it has not been forthcoming for some time, I have found a constant source of NEW and DIFFERENT software programs. "Where?", you ask! On the Information Services such as Delphi and CompuServe. **ALTHOUGH YOU MAY THINK THAT IT TAKES A TECHNICAL WIZ to use telecommunications, IT DOES NOT!**

Some of the programs which I have found include a "Tetris" clone that is SUPERIOR to the commercial version, various EXCELLENT disk and file copy programs, a "FIX-XL" program that allows you to run CARTRIDGES that ordinarily would not run on the XL/XE, Daisy Dot II which is a program that prints text files in different fonts such as script or Old English, various types of graphics and graphic viewers to view non-8-bit Atari formats including viewers for GIF and RLE graphics, music files, print shop graphics, many utilities and different versions of DOS. The "TERM" (terminal) program (modem software) that I use is also Shareware and I "downloaded" it from an Information Service as well. All of the above mentioned programs are either Public Domain or Shareware.

Sounds enticing? Right? "But I lack the technical expertise", you say. Nonsense! Read on! I could scare you off with technical jargon such as "modem", "term software", "baud rate", "duplex", "BBS", etc. but it is really as easy as 1, 2, 3. 1, you need a modem. 2, you need software to run the modem called "Term software" or a "terminal package". 3, you need an Information Service or a Bulletin Board System (BBS) to call. "But what about all of the technical stuff?" you ask. Don't worry, I will walk you through both the hardware and software, and it is really quite simple.

HARDWARE

There are two ways of connecting a modem to an Atari 8-bit computer. The first is through the SIO port just like the disk drives and the printer.

The second is through an interface such as the Atari 850 Interface or the P:R: Connection. The first method is the simplest. There are basically three modems that connect well this way. The first and the oldest is the Atari 1030 Modem. The second is the Atari XM301 Modem. The third is the Atari SX212 Modem. "So what is the difference?," you ask. Basically, the difference is this:

ATARI 1030: This modem is a "direct connect" modem which means that it plugs directly into the phone line. It has two jacks for the SIO cable so that you can "daisy chain" it together with your other peripherals. It comes with software that loads when you turn on the modem, but this software does not allow you to "download" information to your disk drive. There is a Public Domain program called 1030 Express! which loads from your disk drive and gives your 1030 Modem full capabilities and is menu driven. This modem is a 300 baud modem which means that it transfers data fairly slowly, but text coming across the screen is at a readable speed. 300 baud is not a bad speed for a beginner.

ATARI XM301: This modem is very similar to the 1030 in features but is "updated". It too is a "direct connect" modem. It has a cord with an SIO connector on it so that it has to be at the END of the "daisy chain". If you have another device which has only one connector, this could be a problem. One solution is to plug and unplug
(continued on the next page)

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Your mailing label will tell you when your membership ends and when you will receive your last issue of the TEAC Newsletter. On the first line of your mailing label you will find the following information: How many issues you have remaining and the date your membership ends.

5 7/5/88
John Smith
29 South Main Street
Anytown, CA 95454

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the devices, but certainly not the best. Innovative Concepts makes the SIO Switch Box and the SIO Port Box to resolve this problem. My solution was to make a switch box with several switches and a project box from Radio Shack. The XM301 modem comes with XE Term software which is a full featured menu driven term program. This modem does not require a power supply as does the 1030, and is quite compact. It too is a 300 baud modem.

ATARI SX212 MODEM: As the other two modems, this modem also is a "direct connect" modem and as the XM301 modem, it too must be on the end of the "daisy chain". It has a jack rather than a tail and requires an SIO cable. It also requires a power supply. The two advantages of this modem is 1, it runs at 300 baud and 1200 baud and 2, can be connected to a standard serial interface as on most other computers, as well as the 8-bit SIO port. It does NOT come with software, though, but Public Domain Term programs are available for it. It is what is called a "Hayes compatible" modem since it uses the Hayes modem commands. (Hayes is the industry standard in modems.) 1200 baud is four times as fast as 300 baud (obviously) and you cannot read text whizzing by on the screen at that speed. Usually you "capture" the text and save it to a disk and read it "off line". 1200 baud allows file transfers much more quickly, though. Anything over 1200 baud is for a truly serious user and is more subject to "line noise". "Verification Protocols" are designed to handle line noise, but I will discuss this in detail later.

Finally, if you have the 850 Interface or the P:R: Connection, you can connect ANY standard modem through the R: (serial) port through use of a standard serial cable. Again, you will need a Term program to support this modem, which should be "Hayes compatible", for full software support.

SOFTWARE

Now that you have your modem connected to both the computer and phone line and you have turned on the power (if the modem requires it) you're wondering: "How do I get this thing to work?" What you need now is "Term" software or a "Terminal Program". Three of the most popular and easiest to use are 1030 Express!, XE Term, and BobTerm. 1030 Express! is Public

Domain, BobTerm is Shareware, and XE Term comes with the XM301 Modem. Both 1030 Express! and XE Term support 300 baud connections only.

XE Term supports the XM301 Modem only. 1030 Express! supports both the 1030 Modem and the XM301 Modem. BobTerm supports most modems including the Atari 835, 1030 and XM301 Modems, the Supra/MPP 1000x modems (which I believe also connects to the SIO cable), the SX212 Modem connected through the SIO port, and any Hayes compatible modem connected through either the Atari 850 Interface or the P:R: Connection. It also supports 300/1200/2400/4800/9600 baud connections. BobTerm also runs under various DOS's and supports the XEP80 (80 column screen).

To load any of the programs, remove the BASIC cartridge or hold down the OPTION key. The main menu should appear. Now for the "technical stuff" which is "baud rate", "stop bits", and "parity" as well as "duplex" and "translation".

The most important thing to set is "translation". Most Atari Term programs have the choice of ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) or ATSCII (ATari Standard Code...) Unless you are connecting to another 8-bit Atari Computer, select ASCII. The three programs discussed are otherwise pre-set for the most common combination which is 1 stop bit and no parity with full duplex. What does all this mean? Don't worry about stop bits and parity. They rarely need to be changed. These terminal programs have "smart" characteristics which allows it to configure itself to the signal of the computer to which it is connecting. Again, don't worry, the Term program will do the work for you. Baud rate is whatever speed the modem you are using can handle. We will use 300 baud for example, since 1030 Express! and XE Term do not have baud rate settings and they only operate at 300 baud. BobTerm defaults (is pre-set) to 300 baud but can be changed to a higher rate if your modem can support it. Full Duplex (which is the default mode) is used for Information Systems and BBS. Half Duplex is used when connecting one computer to another (such as two Ataris or an Atari to a PC). The rest is easy. Select "dial", type in the phone number, and you're about to take your computer to a land of seemingly infinite information.

Right now you are so enthusiastic that you are ready to order a modem and locate a software
(continued on the next page)

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package. Go for it!

Next time: Information Systems, "protocols", "text capture" and "downloading".

CREDITS

1030 EXPRESS! v.2.1 is Copyright 1985 by Keith Ledbetter and is Public Domain. (1030 Express! is available from the TEAC library)
BOBTerm v.1.21 is Copyright 1990 by Robert Puff and is ShareWare. Mr. Puff requests a \$15 donation if you intend to seriously use his program. Both come with complete documentation on disk and should be "copied" to the printer for a "hard copy".

XE TERM is Copyright 1986 by the Atari Corporation and comes with the XM301 Modem.

Innovative Concepts, 31172 Shawn Drive,
Warren, MI 48093 - (313) 293-0730

COMMENT

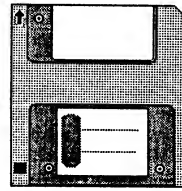
Although all three are excellent programs, BobTerm is current (1990 copyright) and supports all but the very latest transfer protocols currently in use. I have used other terminal programs for IBM PC compatibles comparable to BobTerm costing up to \$100. It is certainly worth the \$15 requested.

DEFINITION

"MODEM" is short for MODulator-DEModulator. This is how the data is converted to an electronic signal, sent over the telephone line, and converted back into data.

OUR NEW DOCTOR DOS

We wish to welcome Alan Birch to our regular editorial staff. He will be writing the DOCTOR DOS column from now on. Alan is presently the Vocational Evaluation Specialist for the Worcester Vocational School Department in Worcester, MA. He uses an Atari 130XE computer, with two 1050 disk drives, a composite color monitor, a Panasonic 1080i printer, an Okimate 10 color printer, and an Atari SX212 modem. He also has an Apple IIc compatible, an IBM PC compatible, and a Commodore 64 computer system. He is responsible for the coordination, maintenance, and training involved with computers at work. He is familiar with the Atari touch tablet, Atari light pen, ComputerEyes video digitizer, and a wealth of other Atari hardware and software.



DOCTOR TOS ATARI ST TIPS

I am now officially "Doc TOS," and hope that the new "Doc DOS" has as much fun as I had writing articles about the 8-bit Atari over the last five years. But now, on with my new career as Doctor TOS. (TOS is the disk operating system used on the Atari STs and Megas).

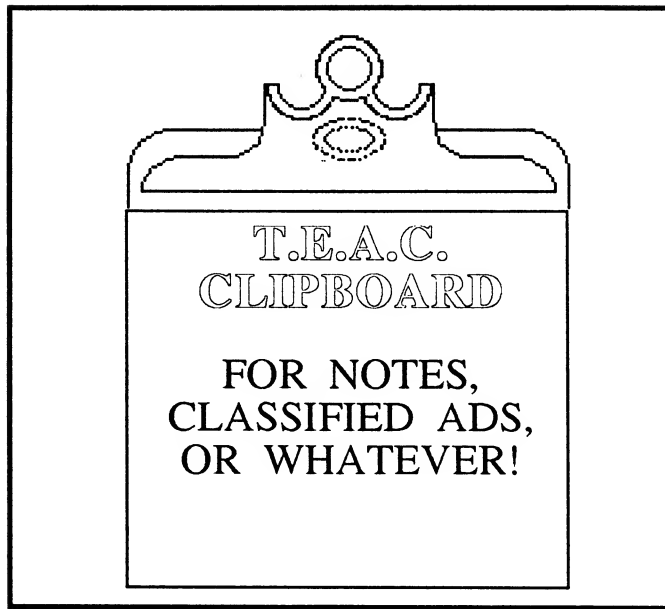
In the last issue I discussed how I was still using my Atari 130XE with my newer Atari 1040ST computer via modems. Since then I received a couple of letters asking me to describe my ST system in more detail before I went on. So here goes:

Since I am a classroom teacher, I must use not only my Atari ST (my room has two), Atari 8-bits (I have four), but also Apple IIs, Macintoshes and IBMs. I wanted to be able to bring programs and datadisks home to work on, but lacked the funds to purchase all these computers. (My wife would also have had some input into this discussion) So I purchased an Atari 1040ST (1 meg) and an Atari SM124 monochrome monitor (\$750) and added the following to it over a period of time.

An Atari SC1224 color monitor (\$300), with a Monitor Master switch (\$45), an 80 meg ICD hard drive (\$800), and a Hewlett Packard DeskJet Plus printer (\$650). I also purchased a Spectre GCR Macintosh emulator (\$350) and PC DITTO IBM emulator software (\$80) to use with my Atari ST computer system. So I presently have about \$3000 in ST equipment (and a very understanding wife).

With this equipment I can run ST software, but I also run Macintosh software and IBM software. I am running the following Macintosh software without any trouble: Microsoft Works, Hypercard, PageMaker, Publish It!, MacPaint, and Microsoft Word. I am running the following IBM Software: PCWrite, WordStar, EasyWorking Writer, Filer, Planner, Graft Maker, Resume Creator, and The Dos Manager. All these programs reside on my hard disk, along with all my Atari St software.

Do I consider my ST system a wise purchase, you bet I do!



"NEW DIRECTIONS" RESPONSES

Since I am an 8-bit Atari user, my interest is naturally 8-bit support. I have no intention to pursue the ST line since we have Apple II's at work and are moving to IBM PC compatibles. I use my 8-bit Atari for many things at home including home utility and productivity for myself, and educational programs for my eight year old daughter. There are certain educational programs that I have for my Atari that there are not comparable software programs for either the Apple or the PC. In the case of a couple of programs, the Atari version works better, easier, and has more features than the Apple programs. I have over 150 commercial Atari software programs and over 250 public domain Atari software programs. I do not plan to abandon this system! My 8-bit Atari continues to be my computer of choice! Therefore, if TEAC wants to expand into ST support, or the support of other computers, great! But don't abandon the Atari 8-bit line! If you find it necessary to expand or "diversify," keep an 8-bit section in your newsletter. It is the 8-bit support for which I joined TEAC in the first place, and would be my only reason to continue my membership. Furthermore, I am sure that there are still many 8-bit users in the membership and there will continue to be for some time. Additionally, inclusion of AIM in the membership cost has been a great "value added" feature. Your newsletter has been quite helpful and informative

and AIM expands on this.

Alan Birch
Worcester, MA

Alan is our new DOCTOR DOS. We do plan to continue support for the Atari 8-bit computer, thanks largely to members like Alan.

I'm writing in response to your latest newsletter.

- 1) Keep supporting the 8-bits...forever.
 - 2) Please DO start supporting the STs. There are plenty of good educational software at good prices.
 - 3) I wouldn't mind seeing IBM or APPLE articles also, but maybe after the 8-bit and ST idea proved to be fruitless.
 - 4) I am more than willing to write articles for you if you need some. My main areas on 8-bits are TYPESETTER, graphic conversion programs, PAPERCLIP and HOMECARD. These are the ones I use the most, but I'm willing to tackle anything if it will help you.
 - 5) If you start covering STs it would be great if STart would publish an article on your efforts and hopefully expand your membership base.
 - 6) There's still plenty of good hardware and software available. TYPESETTER and all other XLent products are still available from XLent at great prices. Hardware is still in good supply.
- If you need my help let me know. I'm far from being a great article writer but do have experience writing for two newsletters. I write articles for our local Atari club for 8-bit information and I'm also editor of the newsletter for our local Civil War Roundtable. I own a 800XL, a 130XE, and a Mega ST2. By the way, your newsletter is very well put together. Just enough graphics and it is very clean looking and easy to read.

Wesley Schultz
Chattanooga, TN

Yes, Wes, or anybody else, write us about how you use your Ataris, about which programs work the best, review programs (that are still available), or anything else that you feel other educators using Ataris would find helpful. That's what TEAC is all about, educators helping educators. We don't care if you aren't a professional writer, none of us are, but we try and share what we know works in the classroom. Send us your articles on a regular Atari data disk.

I'm glad you decided to go ahead and send out the latest edition of the TEAC newsletter. I was beginning to wonder if it, too, was going the same way as all the other Atari 8-bit publications that I have been acquainted with.

In the newsletter, you asked for opinions as to what the membership thinks about the future of the TEAC newsletter as it now exists. I have several ideas and a couple of questions.

My first question is in regard to the subscription price. I had sent in the extra \$6.00 for the AIM subscription offer this past summer, but my TEAC subscription is due to run out with one more issue. Since I have only just received the first issue of the AIM subscription, will I have to send the full \$25 to renew TEAC?

Secondly, if TEAC does not continue publishing or if I elect not to resubscribe to TEAC, will my AIM subscription continue for a full year?

Now for the opinions. I think there is definitely a need for an organization to continue to offer public domain and shareware educational software for the Atari 8-bit. Even though Atari has ceased production of the 8-bits, they will continue to provide some sort of support and there will be XLs and XEs around for several more years. People who use them will eventually ask where they can get software for their kids and their schoolwork and TEAC could be the premiere source for help. It could be that if Atari customer relations was made aware of the fine collection of TEAC software that they would direct inquiries to TEAC.

I also think that TEAC disks should be made available to the general public instead of just the membership of TEAC. Doesn't the existing policy require membership before purchasing disks? Notices can be put on GENie and CompuService of the availability of the disks and perhaps even a small advertisement could be placed in either AIM or one of the major ST magazines.

In the educational realm, we have to face the fact that Atari computers just aren't used very much and that an organization dedicated to Atari-using educators is bound to come to an end. However, there are many "lone users" scattered round the US and the world who don't have user groups to get information on Atari products. I think that TEAC should broaden its scope to include all Atari users, whether they are involved in education or not. I, for one, would love to get something informative in the mail every month regarding Atari news, whether it was

about education or other things. The user group in my area died because many of the members bought ST computers and deserted the group. It seemed that they no longer needed the other group members because they could get everything they needed over the modem or in magazines.

I have a little trouble justifying paying out \$18 a year for just four photocopied pages every other month. If the amount of material in the newsletter was six or eight pages of meaningful material, that would be different. I would also be dead-set against incorporating other brands of computers into the newsletter. That approach worked well for Compute! and Creative Computing for several years, but they had lots of pages.

Personal computing has changed a lot in the years since 1979. At first, people were intrigued by how computers operated and wanted to be able to "program" a computer. Nowadays, that has all changed and we are more user-oriented. There are still software and hardware hackers around, but almost anyone can put in additional "cards" and add hard drives to their systems. The romance of the early computers is gone. The computer isn't just a novelty anymore, it is a tool in the real sense of the word. It helps people get their jobs done easier. As long as people own and are interested in the Atari 8-bit computers and as long as that hardware helps them get work done faster and more efficiently, there will be some demand for support.

Michael Bennett
Augusta, GA

When you renew a year's subscription with TEAC it will cost \$25. But that will be for a year's subscription to AIM (\$18) beyond your current subscription and six issues of the TEAC Newsletter (\$7) plus the most recent issue of the TEAC Library (newest one is being mailed in January) . If you decide that TEAC isn't worth it, just send your \$18 renewal to AIM when your current subscription runs out. We agree that \$25 is a large amount, but isn't your Atari worth it? Membership to TEAC has never been restricted to just educators, and many of our members have been parents, students, and just interested Atari users. We do specialize in educational software, however, and that was a conscious decision on our part. It was our feeling that information on educational software for the Atari was getting impossible to find and we began TEAC five years ago to fill that gap..
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A GRAMMAR CHECKER FOR ATARI

Is there a Grammar checker for my Atari? I have a spell checker, but it doesn't correct my grammar mistakes. I know that grammar checkers and Thesaurus are available for IBMs, but I can't locate them for my Atari.

La Dana Gridiron
San Luis Obispo, CA

You didn't identify which Atari computer system you were using. Quite frankly, if you are using an Atari 8-bit system there are spell checkers available, but no "grammar checkers," or "Thesaurus," that we are aware of presently on the market. ATARIWRITER PLUS (\$30), ATARI-WRITER 80 (\$45 - XEP80 necessary \$80) and PAPER-CLIP (hard to find - 130XE necessary) are word processors for the Atari 8-bit that have spell checkers. If you are using the ATARIWRITER cartridge, then ATARI PROOFREADER (\$18) is for you. Try San Jose Computer in San Jose, CA (1-800-726-8576), B&C ComputerVisions in Santa Clara, CA (1-408-749-1003), or American TechnaVision in San Leandro, CA (1-800-551-9995). SPELL MAGIC (\$20), a stand-alone spell checker for most Atari 8-bit word processors is available from Antic Magazine (1-800-234-7001)

If you are using an Atari ST, however, there are several excellent programs available. The newest versions of "WORD PERFECT" (\$150) and "WORD WRITER ST" (\$50) both come with spell checkers and Thesaurus built into their word processing programs. They are available from Software Discounters of America in Blawnox, PA (1-800-225-7638), Computer Garden in Edwardsville, PA (1-800-456-5689), MicroTyme in Kettering, OH (1-800-255-5835), or ComputAbility in Milwaukee, WI (1-800-558-0003), to name a few of the larger mail order houses.

The only ST grammar checker that we are presently aware of is called GRANSLAM. It costs \$15 and comes from Phil Comeau Software, 43 Rueter Street, Nepean, Ontario, Canada K2J 3Z9.

80 COLUMNS ON MY ATARI?

The one thing I really dislike about my classroom Atari 130XE is that it doesn't display 80 columns of information on the screen when my students are using it for word processing. Because of this, they prefer to use our Apple IIc to write their reports. It is especially hard to line

up columns on the Atari because of this. Must we buy an Atari ST to get 80 column word processing?

Frank Johnston
Palm Springs, CA

You can have an 80 column display for word processing. Atari released a device called the XEP80 Interface Module that offers both 80-column video display and a parallel printer interface. The XEP80 plugs into your second joystick port and with a proper 80-column monochrome composite monitor will give excellent results. You can get a XEP80 from ANTIC Magazine at the special limited-time price of \$39.95 right now. (phone 1-800-234-7001) The catch is that you must have a monochrome monitor (\$90) and software that will take advantage of the XEP80. ATARIWRITER 80 (\$45) and TURBOWORD (\$50) are the only two word processors that use the XEP80, to our knowledge. TURBOFILE 80 is an 80 column database program that also takes advantage of the XEP80.

NEW DIRECTIONS LATE EDITIONS

Although we have decided to start supporting the Atari ST line of computers, we are not going to abandon the 8-bits. As long as we have members willing to write about Atari 8-bit software and hardware we will continue to support it. We also plan to continue to add to our 8-bit library of educational software, in addition to adding ST educational disks to the T.E.A.C. Public Domain Educational Library.

We wish to apologize for the lateness of this issue of the TEAC Newsletter. We realize this is the second issue in a row to arrive to you about 15 days late, but with reassigning and replacing our regular contributors, we simply "didn't get our act together" in time. Hopefully, everybody will be back on schedule by the February issue.

You should also be receiving the new TEAC Library catalog sometime during January. It should include all the new 8-bit disks, as well as the new ST selection. We will also include the TEAC/SUNBURST collection in the catalog.